

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please find, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(1), the enclosed Form PTO-1449 which contains a list of all patents, publications, or other items that have come to the attention of one or more of the individuals designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c). While no representation is made that any of these references may be "prior art" within the meaning of that term under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103, the enclosed list of references is disclosed so as to fully comply with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

Moreover, while no representation is made that a specific search of office files or patent office records has been conducted or that no better art exists, the undersigned attorney of record believes that the enclosed art is the closest to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) of

which the undersigned is presently aware, and no art which is closer to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) has been knowingly withheld.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, a copy of each of the listed references or relevant portion thereof is also enclosed.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(c), all English translations within the possession, custody, control or availability of anyone designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) of each nonenglish reference, if any, are also enclosed.

Promptness Certification  
Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)

I hereby certify that no item of information contained in the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this statement, or, to the knowledge of the undersigned attorney of record after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this statement.

Please credit any over payment or charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 23-3178 of the undersigned.

Dated this 31<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



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